

# QUID NOVI

**McGill University, Faculty of Law**  
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29

21

**HOW LAW  
STUDENTS  
SPENT  
THE  
HOLIDAY...**





## QUID NOVI

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NOTE: The Quid would like to thank

**Alison Adam**

for her stand-up  
stand-in job as Editor  
this week!

## EDITORIAL

by **Cassandra Brown (Law III)**  
**Co-Editor-in-Chief**

Is the final sponsored Coffee House of law school a vivid memory for all McGillians? Last Thursday, as I set down my wine glass on my way out of the atrium, I had the impression that it would be for me. Some great things that this iconic faculty event has included over the years are live pianists, limbo contests, giant cakes, wine, clubs, and good company. On this particular occasion however, Coffee House offered something unique for me – something that reminded me why, beyond all of the tangible benefits, it is such a very special tack-on to our legal education at McGill.

It happened unexpectedly as I was leaving the wine table with a friend. Turning around, we ran straight into a Coffee House regular, professor Rod MacDonald. Professor MacDonald grabbed my friend to discuss arrangements for the upcoming grad-ball (which she is organizing). As I listened

to their conversation, I suddenly remembered my extreme consternation surrounding a certain issue I had come upon earlier that day while studying secured transactions. I remembered, too, that Professor MacDonald is undisputedly one of the foremost *sûretés réelles* academics in Quebec. When they finished talking, I decided to change the subject.

Without putting my question into any more context than "I'm sorry to ask this obscure question, but I thought that you of all people would be most able to answer it...", I blurted out something like, "Why is the English translation of Title II in the book of hypothecs called 'Prior Claims'? It makes no sense!"

The equivalent French title is 'Priorités' (2650+ CCQ). A *priorité* is a type of receivable that ranks higher than

[See **Editorial**, p 5]

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Contributions should preferably be submitted as a .doc attachment.



# SHIVERING IN MY SHOES

by Francie Gow (ALUM I)

**I**t's getting tough to find time to write these days, so I'll get right to the point: I recommend that you make a habit of doing things that scare you.

First-years, you are off the hook for the moment, since week after week you have scary things thrust upon you. Second year is not exactly easier than first year; however, aside from the factum, it is less inherently scary. You have a network of friends. You know where all the photocopiers are. You have a few exams under your belt. You can read judgments without being stopped in your tracks every thirty seconds by incomprehensible terms or charming little abbreviations like "aff'd." You know that when a judge starts a paragraph "With the utmost respect to my most learned friend," that means the gloves are off. You know that getting a few B's won't kill you, since you got a bunch in first year, and here you still are. Third year is more of the same, minus the factum. So no excuses for Law II and up.

McGill Law is a sponsored buffet table of opportunity, and four years is not enough to try everything that might interest you. Between courses, clubs, jobs, exchanges, moot teams, intramural teams and so on, you are going to have to make some choices. If everything you choose is something you already know you can do, I suggest that you revise those

choices.

I am not suggesting that you are obliged to confront every single one of your fears during your time at the faculty, nor that you should do things that do not appeal to you simply because they will "expand your horizons." I am talking about those opportunities that tempt you but for which you lack confidence.

My fear of moots almost prevented me from applying to study law in the first place, so imagine my surprise when I not only did just fine in my required moots but even secretly enjoyed them. That said, I have no regrets about skipping the auditions for the competitive moots. I had already gotten what I needed.

What I do regret is never having volunteered for the Legal Information Clinic. I really wanted to, and all my friends really seemed to enjoy it, but I couldn't get past my fear of fielding those first phone calls, despite knowing intellectually that I would probably get into the swing of it in no time. Of course, what I told everyone was that I was too busy. Technically true, but really a crutch.

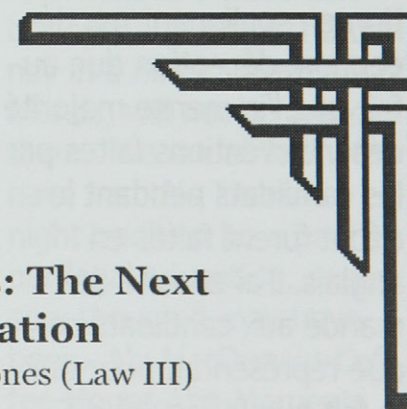
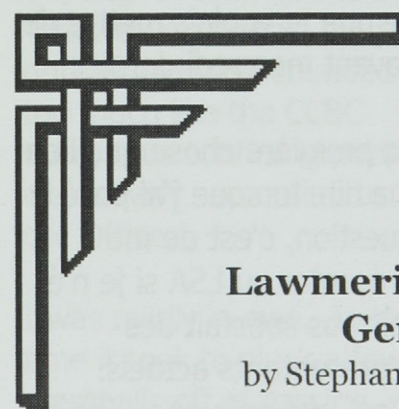
Luckily, I didn't always let fear get the better of me. If I had, I would never have organized my first wine tasting, played my first bridge tournament, given a talk on copyright law at an international translation confer-

ence, gone on exchange to Singapore, applied for a clerkship, or crooned sweet nothings to the Dean at Skit Nite. My richest experiences at McGill were invariably the ones that I very nearly talked myself out of.

The catch to all this is that sometimes things don't work out the way you plan them. I spent a solid week the summer after first year putting together a killer application for the Law Journal. As a professional translator and editor, I knew I was a shoe in. I was turned down. I later thanked my lucky stars, since it freed me up to accept a job at the Private Law Dictionary that I came to love, and also allowed me to go away on exchange, but at the time it was a blow to the ego.

On that note, I have asked a friend to post an essay on the Democracy Wall for me this week (thanks Walid!): "Two Kinds of Judgement," by Paul Graham. Yes, it's the same guy who wrote that article about why nerds are unpopular, but he says all kinds of interesting things. This one is very short and should be required reading for those of you having your own egos bashed around by recruitment these days. You can also Google it.

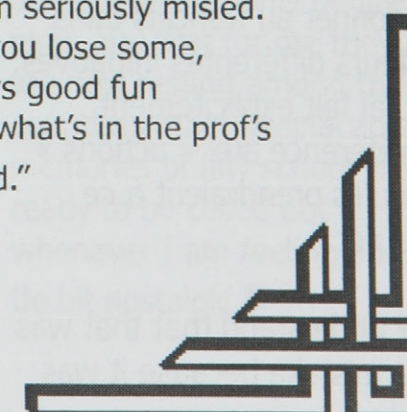
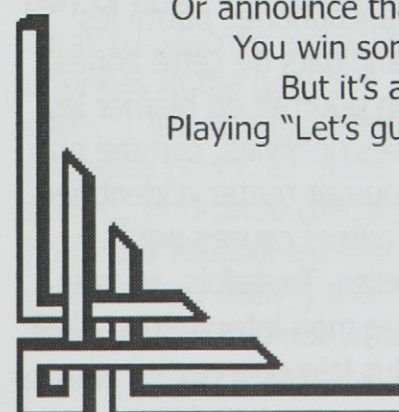
The moral of my story is that if you aren't doing one big thing every year of your own initiative that scares you silly (and maybe a small scary thing every month), you are not making the most of your time at McGill. If you are, chances are it will develop into a life-long habit with big rewards. Who knows, it may even give you the guts you need to leap out of a cushy law job and find true fulfilment as a folk singer.



## Lawmericks: The Next Generation

by Stephanie Jones (Law III)

The prof may endorse what I've said  
Or announce that I'm seriously misled.  
You win some, you lose some,  
But it's always good fun  
Playing "Let's guess what's in the prof's  
head."





# DU RISQUE D'ABORDER UNE QUESTION DÉLICATE...

by Hugues Bergeron (LAW I)

**I**nfortunately might have made myself enemies last Wednesday when I asked a delicate question to the different candidates running for the LSA and class presidencies. The discussion that followed took a direction that I didn't want it to take. My tone might have been provocative but this was not my intention. I need to clarify a few things and to apologize for a mistake that I have made in raising an issue which however, without the shadow of a doubt, needed to be addressed.

Mon erreur résidait dans la manière avec laquelle j'ai phrasé ma question. J'ai commencé mon intervention en soulignant ma déception, déception due au fait que l'immense majorité des interventions faites par les candidats pendant le débat furent faites en anglais. J'ai ensuite demandé aux candidats ce que représentait pour eux le fait que la faculté de droit soit bilingue et quelle importance ils pensaient donner au français dans leurs différentes initiatives. J'ai fait explicitement référence aux « actions » qu'ils prendraient à ce sujet.

I understand that that was a mistake because it was

linking the fact that people had, for the great majority, spoken in English to my question about the actions they would take as representatives of the WHOLE student body. It might have been interpreted as insinuating that this made them unable to take actions for bilingualism. But there is a reason why I made this mistake, and I'll explain it later.

Ce que les paragraphes ci-dessus démontrent donc, c'est que j'ai abordé de manière maladroite la question. Je le reconnais sans problème. Évidemment, cela ne veut pas dire que la question ne doit pas être soulevée. Je vais donc reprendre plus clairement ce que je voulais mettre de l'avant mercredi dernier.

La première chose que l'on ma dite lorsque j'ai posé la question, c'est de me présenter au LSA si je n'étais pas satisfait des représentants actuels. C'est une opinion valide qui souligne le problème de sous-représentation des francophones parmi les candidats de cette année. On pourrait en blâmer les francophones, comme on pourrait tenter d'identifier d'autres causes potentielles. Toutefois, je crois que mon intervention allait plus loin que ça.

Effectivement, la raison pour laquelle je demandais aux candidats de se prononcer sur cette question était pour savoir lequel de ceux-ci peut représenter mes inquiétudes à ce sujet. Est-ce qu'il n'y a que les francophones qui puissent le faire? Bien sûr que non. En fait, plusieurs candidats ont pris très sincèrement le temps de venir me voir après le débat, pour me dire que j'avais bien fait de parler de ce sujet, qu'ils trouvaient ça important et qu'ils y étaient sensibles. Ces candidats, presque tous anglophones, m'ont démontré que c'est un sujet qui leur tient à cœur et qu'ils ont l'intention de prendre en considération. C'est exactement ce genre de choses que je voulais savoir en posant ma question, et que je considérerai lorsque je voterai.

The second point that was made to me was that although the faculty is bilingual, it's "passively bilingual" and so it's everybody's right to talk in whichever "official language" they want. This is also right. How could I deny or question that, when all the texts I have published in the Quid up to now were written solely in French? However, once again, I think we have to

see further than that.

It is obvious that everybody can speak the language they want. However, it is my opinion that if you want to be a student representative of a bilingual student body, you should address the students in both the "official languages". Moreover, as was relevantly brought up by one of the candidates, your job as a representative will in many cases demand a good knowledge of both English and French. Yes, the policy is one of "passive bilingualism". But the people who built up this bilingual faculty were everything but passive. They were very proactive in putting forward a project which would foster exchange and education in a bilingual context. I guess the very basis of my question, last Wednesday, was that I, personally, want my student representatives to be proactive on that issue as well. They have the right to be passive about it, as they have the right to be passive about a myriad of other issues. But if I am to vote for someone who will represent the whole faculty, which is bilingual, I want someone who will promote sincerely, with good faith, bilingualism. Just as I want the Dean to speak in both languages (which he does very well) when he is addressing the students and/or representing the faculty. If everybody was to care solely about his or her own language because it is "his/her right" to do so,



then the world would be even worse than it is right now, and I would not be writing this text in English, tampoco podría hablar en Español, oder auf Deutsch. And the faculty would not be bilingual.

Si tous les étudiants peuvent sans problème parler la langue qu'ils désirent, quand ils le désirent, ils peuvent aussi exiger de leurs représentants qu'ils soient sensibles à l'importance du bilinguisme. Ce n'est pas nécessairement important pour tous ; ce l'est pour moi. C'est pour cette raison que j'ai soulevé la question.

Again, my objective was not to offend anybody; if I did so, my apologies. I know this is a very delicate issue. However, I also know that this is a highly important issue for the very basis of what McGill's law faculty is about. Si le bilinguisme bat de l'aile, le transsystème risque bien de le suivre. And then, McGill would be just any law faculty (and so would your diploma!). Therefore, given the importance of this issue, I will keep raising it, even though it might be considered disturbing to some (or even anger them). Avoiding delicate questions is never a good thing; it usually makes things worse while making people think that things are better....

But this is another story. ■

# [Editorial, continued]

even secured debt (held by a hypothecary creditor); examples of such priority claims are legal costs and municipal or state taxes.

While hypothecary creditors in Quebec are placed in a privileged position vis-à-vis ordinary creditors, their interests - which compete with other hypothecary creditors based on the date of their publication - are always subordinated to priority claims in the case of debtor insolvency (even if a priority claim arises much later in time).

Professor MacDonald responded without missing a beat, picking up immediately on what I had inarticulately complained about: the implicit reference to the time at which an amount becomes receivable in the employment of the word "prior", when the status given to the claim has absolutely nothing to do with timing and everything to do with the nature of the claim.

"That's an interesting story," he said. I didn't doubt him! "You see, when we were working on the draft civil code (when WE were drafting the Code!) we had originally called that title "Preferences", with the corresponding French translation of "Préférences".

What a revelation! That seemed so much more logical. Preferences/Préférences has no connotation of a creditor taking priority because of being first in time! It implies that a creditor gets priority because of the nature

of his claim, which is the case. So why didn't that stick?

Professor MacDonald went on to explain that the Office québécois de la langue française rejected "Préférences" as an insufferable anglicism. Therefore, the drafters of the code had to find a synonym. The word "Privilege/Privilège" would ostensibly have been acceptable from a linguistic point of view, he admitted, but was unfortunately out of the question because the drafters needed to distinguish the new priorities from the anciens privilèges in the Code Civil du Bas Canada. The CCBC privilèges conferred real rights, while the CCQ priorities - as a general rule - do not.

This left the french word priorité as a descriptor for the new preferred claims - which makes perfect sense, in French. However, as soon as priorité was established as the French term, the English term had to be "prior claims". Plain old priority would have sounded too much like the CCBC term, thus confusing people excessively...according to the Office.

I was mildly in awe. In the time it took to pluck a few meatballs off of passing cocktail platters, I had gotten an authentic play-by-play of how "Prior Claims" came to describe legislated priorities in the new civil code. I felt at once satisfied (because now it all made sense), vindicated (because Professor MacDonald had validated my feeling that "prior claim" was not what should spring to mind when

talking about state-legislated priority claims), proud (because MY school laid claim to one of THE drafters of the Civil Code), grateful (because I had the opportunity to just stumble across knowledge like this on any given Thursday afternoon), and motivated (to learn more about the 95% of suretés réelles that I have NOT studied yet, because now I am newly inspired) - all because of a fleeting moment of clarity that was facilitated for me by running into a professor at Coffee House.

Shortly after this encounter I did what we will all one day do: I said good-bye to some friends, set down my empty glass and walked out of the last sponsored Coffee House I will ever attend. On the way out I thought to myself that I will undoubtedly forget many things about suretés réelles when I leave law school, but this history-laden anecdote, related to me not within the four walls of a classroom but over a glass of chardonnay in a noisy atrium full of friends, will not be one of them. We are all lucky to have had this Thursday night tradition be a part of our legal education, accessory though it may have been. My MacDonald-Coffee-House-Aha-Moments may be over, but I am content to know that for many others they are only beginning, and that for me they are now resting among the countless other irreplaceable memories of law school life, ready to be called out whenever I am feeling a little bit nostalgic. ■



# A SHAMELESS PLUG FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

by Rachel Doran (LAW II)

There are still moments where I sit, half listening to a professor, but a part of me wondering if it weren't the 'reasonable' person that walked in, but instead just any old person—how much lower would the reputation of lawyers sink in the world? A promise is not a promise, there is no legal obligation to assist in times of need, international law is only binding if you agree it will be... It all makes sense in the rational structure of law school, and presumably will be the rationality we will all have to adopt in order to successfully translate the stories of clients into Legalese throughout our career. However, keeping a perspective on how law actually affects peoples' lives, and how it can be translated back into the world of 'any old person' I believe to be as valuable a skill as a masterful moot.

I would be the first to argue that the disconnect between experiences as they are felt by individuals and how they are viewed in the courtroom will never be solved through a few hours of pro bono legal work. However, I do think that work with the public through legal clinics, workshops or work with community organizations keeps us grounded in the realities of how we and our profession are perceived out there in the world. I believe this is valuable no matter

what career path we choose to follow.

And now comes the shameless plug: students at this faculty do amazing work in the guise of a number of amazing organizations, but I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the sixty students who offered their time to what were certainly not always glamorous tasks at Pro Bono placements this year. I was in the lucky position of getting to see not just the work done at one organization, but to see a larger picture of students going out and offering their legal education to help community organizations work on issues of labour, health, environment, sexual harassment, aboriginal issues, immigration, and the list goes on.... So, as the year winds down (or speeds up—depending on how you view the matter), I wanted to share a few perspectives from out of 'the tower', and hope more will join us next year....

## Alex Dearham, Law II Centre for Research Action on Race Relations

My placement at CRAAR (Centre for Research Action on Race Relations) is perhaps the most valuable single activity I have taken on at law school. I have worked on several files for clients who are launching complaints before the Human Rights Commission

because they have been discriminated against. Pro Bono students get to see the human rights process from start to finish -- we have the opportunity to meet with clients, to attend hearings before administrative tribunals, and to hear many of our cases reported in the media. Interns also have the opportunity to do policy-oriented advocacy. This year, past and present pro bono students helped draft a brief on SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against public participation), which we submitted to, and presented before, a committee at the National Assembly. The work has given me practical experience in areas of human rights, employment and labour law, and a sense of accomplishment that I haven't found in the classroom.

## Thomas Cormie, Law I & Derrick McIntosh, Law II Yaldei Developmental Center:

Yaldei provides intensive early intervention therapies to children with special needs, including autism, Downs syndrome, and cerebral palsy. The state funds these therapies for children enrolled in public educational establishments. It does not fund them for children enrolled in private, religion-based schools.

Our work over the past year

consisted of two parts. First, we researched the legislative and regulatory bases for the current funding regime and the distinction which it imposes with respect to public and private schools. Second, we assisted with the development of legal arguments contending that this distinction violates the Quebec and Canadian Charters.

Our work at Yaldei revealed law as bittersweet in the life of an educational organization. Law was both a source of perceived injustice and a perceived remedy to that injustice. Legal remedies were both a means to pursue an organizational mission and a burden upon energies and resources which could otherwise more directly support that mission. Our Pro Bono work required us to bridge and respond to these opposed experiences of law.

## Amelia Fink, Law I Concordia Legal Information Clinic

My Pro Bono placement is at the Concordia Legal Information Clinic. It's a small clinic dealing with the areas of immigration, discrimination and consumer protection. Being a first year student, I was surprised to learn that I'd be allowed to work shifts. This scared me at first, since I felt that I knew nothing about the law. Once I started working, though, I realized that at the legal clinic you don't really need to KNOW anything off the top of your head.

For me, working at the legal clinic is the highlight of my week. First and foremost, I



like it because it involves working with real people on real problems. It's also a chance to explore areas of the law that you might not have encountered in class. For example, I've never taken a course on immigration law, but because of the legal clinic I now know quite a lot about the "points system". I've also learned about initiating a claim at Small Claims Court and various other practical bits of information. I also really like the fact that the Concordia clinic is staffed by law students from McGill, UQAM and U de M. It's a chance to meet new people and find out about how the other law schools operate.

### **Megan Howatt, Law II Native Women's Shelter**

For my Pro Bono placement I worked at the Native Women's Shelter. During my time there I held "legal information" hours, and also produced legal info sheets in simplest language possible (not always an easy feat). I quickly discovered that 2-3 hours at the shelter was never enough! Often I would spend my time at the shelter just chatting with the women and playing with their kids. In this informal setting, the women were much more willing to open up about their legal concerns. More than anything, the women at the shelter showed me just how scary and confusing the justice system can be when you are in such a vulnerable position. If I helped clarify just one thing for one client during my shift, everyone was very happy. The women at the shelter always made me promise that I would never

turn into one of those "dirty, greedy lawyers". I hope that I never let them down!

### **Elizabeth France, Law II Immigrant Workers' Center**

This Center assists immigrant workers in the daily problems that they face, but is also forward-looking in the sense that it attempts address some of the root causes of problems through public action campaigns and education. Even more important than the programs that it runs, the Center provides a safe space for individuals to meet, to work together, and to support one another.

One of my main projects has been assisting the Center in its representation of a group of textile workers who were unjustly dismissed by their employer. Not only did their employer unjustly dismiss them, but their in-house union failed to take their concerns regarding their dismissal to the employer and refused to file a grievance on their behalf. Most of these individuals had worked at the company for between 10 and 25 years.

Not only has my work on this case given me a crash course in labour and employment law, but it has also personally invested me in a cause that I think is extremely important but never expected to be interested in. Having heard their individual stories, I truly believe that these workers deserve more than what they got and I'm willing to do what I can to assist and support them in their struggle. ■

# **PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER DAY**

by **S. Büchele (LAW I)** and **S. Greisbach (LAW III)**

On February 20 the CDO held its annual Public Interest Career Day in collaboration with the Human Rights Working Group and the McGill International Law Society. The event, while smaller in scale than its Civil and Common Law counterparts, was packed with punch and peaked students' interest in this area of law that is quickly gaining popularity. Participating in the day's activities were various, well-known organizations such as Aide Juridique de Montréal, Legal Aid Ontario, Educlooi, Avocats Sans Frontières and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). In addition, and much to students' surprise, two firms were represented indicating that the possibilities of working in the public interest can extend far beyond non-profit and government organizations. The firms Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish and Hutchins Caron & Associés joined the others to provide insights into their daily responsibilities and the possible careers that exist on the "road less travelled".

The schedule of the day began with informational interviews for which students were encouraged to register. These meetings proved to be very useful as students were given the opportunity to meet with the reps in an informal setting and ask any questions they deemed necessary for embarking on a career in the public interest sector. Such discussions revolved around the lawyer's professional development, decision to work

in PI as well as possible obstacles that exist in this realm that may not otherwise be experienced while working for a private firm.

Following these informal meetings came the universal break and the information booths. This phase turned out to be the most thriving time for the invited guests and the most anticipated by students. While students did line up for pizza, it was what the firms and organizations did not offer to students that attracted them most. Students were not bought by gadgets and promotional items; instead they were drawn in by their own sheer interest and in the knowledge that was imparted to them. The advice that was shared with students on this day will undoubtedly help them to focus their path on obtaining articling positions and to go onto developing fruitful careers in the public interest. The Public Interest Careers Day ended with a remarkable panel discussion which included several of the reps who were present throughout the day (including Patricia D'Heureux from Cavalluzzo Hayes, Lynn Iding from LAO and Nadia Bourély from DFAIT) as well as a familiar face from the Department of Justice, Frédéric Paquin, who shared the secrets of interviewing with the government. This year's Public Interest Career Day confirmed a growing attraction to this area of practice. For more information on this topic and for guidance with pursuing a PI career, students are invited to visit the CDO. ■



# 3-2-1 BLAST-OFF

by John Lofranco (LAW I)

The Constitution, the ball hockey team, not the legal foundation of our country, head into the McGill intramural playoffs riding a three-game win streak, and a four-game unbeaten streak. The Constitution started the season with a preamble to forget: a pair of losses to beatable teams. In the first game, an 8-5 loss to the equally patriotically-named Beaver Hunters, Chris Rompré started in goal for the law students. He held a disorganized and not quite ready for ratification team in the game, but in the end, the Beavers outworked the Constitution and came out on top.

For the second game, the decision was taken to amend the goaltending situation. Team captain John Lofranco played the first half, and let in five goals behind a skeleton crew. At the half, Yuheng Zhang went between the pipes and ac-

robatically declared many of the Trailblazers' shots ultra vires, but it was still not enough, as with only four runners (no change of lines), the Constitution fell 11-1. Still, Yuheng's play clearly answered the goaltending question.

In the third game of the regular season, Rompré returned, and his zeal and speed outside the net was balanced by Zhang's strong play in the net. The team was shorthanded again, playing with only four, but luckily, so was the other team, and The Constitution escaped with a 3-3 tie.

An accord that would unite a nation was reached in game four. With gunners Kyle Donnelly, Ryan Elger and Justin Dubois back in the line-up, the Constitution overruled McLovin by a 10-5 score. The shift changes really helped get the best out of all the players. Confidence was growing.

After the mid-winter/spring/study/reading break, the Constitution was back in action against the Ice Holes. Clearly the plan was to fill those Holes by taking judicial notice of the fact that we were a better team. One glitch was that star goalie Zhang was impugned for the weekend, leaving Lofranco to take over. After deliberately playing poorly in the warm up to encourage strong defense in his team, Lofranco proceeded to spot the Holes a one-goal lead, doing his best Vesa Toskala on an easy dump in. He seemed to settle down after that, or the team really shored up the D, and the Constitution Rompréd to a 12-2 win.

This win set up the final game of the season, a section fifteen battle against the possibly discriminatory Mighty Whities (not sure if they are referring to race or underwear). The Constitution needed to win. A tie would not get us into the playoffs. With only a few minutes remaining in the tightly contested game, and

the score a split decision at 5-5, Zhang was pulled in favour of an extra attacker. The ensuing pressure forced the Whities to draw a penalty. With the goalie safely back in, the Constitution took turns throwing the book at Whitey. After Zhang turned away a short-handed breakaway, Justin found David Heti at the side of the net. Heti's holding was that a goal should be scored, with no leave to appeal. Seconds later, the buzzer went. The Constitution was going to the playoffs.

The post-season begins on Sunday March 30th, and continues Tuesday April 1st, and Sunday April 6th, with the final on Tuesday April 8th. Success is going to depend, as it did in the regular season, on Zhang's play, and the work ethic exemplified by team members Michael Huynh, Robert Whillans, and Adam Settecase, and the rest, supra. Come and support yet another law intramural team going for the championship.

## LAWMERICKS: THE NEXT GENERATION

by Stephanie Jones (Law III)

I really don't like WebCT.  
I'm not alone, apparently.  
If they'd switch to Facebook  
We promise, we'd all look  
(We're there anyway already...).



# ACT STRAIGHT

by Gregory Ko (LAW I)

Act straight  
you must forgive us for our  
sins  
we are but fallen spirits,  
fallen souls,  
fallen creation

we are in need of your  
salvation,  
your admonition, your  
absolution  
we are in need of your  
Saviour,  
your mercy and your  
compassion  
for our souls are broken, in  
tatters,  
tainted with this pink  
disease

act straight  
speak to us about what it is  
to be a man  
a manly man, a real man  
speak to us about  
scoreboards,  
about play-by-plays, about  
touchdowns  
speak to us, through your  
coded grunts and your cryp-  
tic groans  
about how good it feels to  
bat for the right team,  
about how good it feels to  
'bang a hoe', to 'screw her  
right'

act straight  
we are but a frail and meek  
people  
unable to understand the  
true virtue of masculinity  
give us thread, give us  
needles  
give us hair and give us  
nails  
let us be your entertainers  
and your comics  
your jesters and your

buffoons  
let us make fools of  
ourselves,  
let us make you laugh  
but nay, don't deign, don't  
dare  
let us step into your  
classrooms, nor your  
playgrounds,  
your pulpits, nor your  
barracks  
we don't belong  
we weren't meant for that

act straight  
tell us about God's plan for  
us  
fire and brimstone,  
gnashing of teeth  
tell us about the definition  
of marriage:

between a man and a  
woman to the exclusion of  
all others  
tell us about psychological  
disorders,  
of smothering mothers,  
uncaring fathers,  
abusive upbringings, twisted  
childhoods

tell us about Leviticus and  
Isaiah  
and how we are doomed  
and damned  
for lying with another man  
how we are an abomination  
how AIDS is the cure to our  
existence  
how death will come to us  
come to us in due time

act straight  
we know our voices are too  
high  
our flames too bright  
our legs too crossed  
our gestures too wild  
but you'll have to  
understand

we weren't born this way  
we learnt to be corrupted  
we chose to be stained,  
to be hated, to be cast  
aside  
this lifestyle, this  
performance, is not our own  
we must unlearn, we must  
be taught

so we beseech you,  
teach us, o great sage,  
how to make our voices  
baritone like yours,  
how to unfurl our legs  
how to quell our arms  
how to extinguish our flame

it's dark in here, when our  
lights go out  
I can barely see who I am  
in the darkness of your  
acceptance

act straight  
how proud you must feel to  
cut out pink triangles,  
to trample on rainbows, to  
shut closet doors  
how proud you must feel to  
protect the family,  
the nation, the law, and all  
that is saintly  
we're sorry we don't fit your  
definition  
we're sorry we aren't saints

act straight  
but be not bashful  
you should take pride in  
your achievements:  
your black eyes, your tossed  
stones,  
your lynchings and your  
murders  
heck! we were only asking  
for it  
with our flirting and our  
flaunting  
heck! you even taught us a  
lesson  
and in the end you were  
just insane

act straight  
how forceful your voice  
must be  
to protect homes and  
neighbourhoods from our  
reach  
how forceful your arms  
must be  
to protect your supply of  
blood and your supply of  
teachers  
from our corrosive agent  
how forceful your faith must  
be to know God's will,  
to know his love, to know  
his meaning  
our ears are deafened to his  
message  
by the thunderous beat of  
our clubs  
we couldn't possibly know  
his message  
we couldn't possible know  
his love

so when you pass us on the  
street  
tell us: act straight  
and we'll know the meaning  
of your words:  
how we need to be strong,  
how we need to be men,  
how we need to fight,  
to keep on being who we  
are

we learnt your gracious  
lesson  
and have as reply that  
we are not alone  
we are here to stay  
we are here to be

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À l'occasion de la semaine  
de fierté de McGill.

Inspiré du manifeste Speak  
White de Michèle Lalonde.



# LSA ELECTIONS

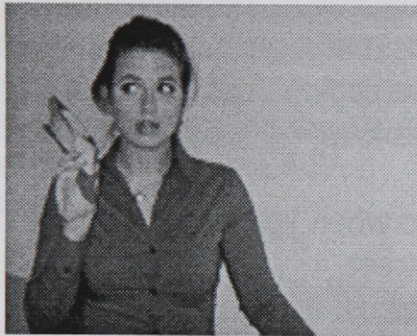
The LSA general elections will take place from **Wednesday, March 26th at 8 a.m. to Friday, March 28th at 11 p.m.**, on the Online Voting System.

The following blurbs were submitted by candidates. The blurbs of the acclaimed candidates follow.

Les Élections générales de l'AÉD auront lieu du **mercredi, le 26 mars à 8h, au vendredi, le 28 mars à 23h**, sur le Online Voting System.

Les textes de présentation suivants ont été soumis par les candidats.

## RUNNING FOR: VP ACADEMIC



### LAURA EASTON

If you scrunch your face in wonder when you hear "Laura Easton" and "VP Academics", you just don't know me well enough.

I am running for VP Academic because I believe students have a responsibility to take an active role in their education. Every student's educational experience at McGill Law is different, and each deserves representation.

I have been involved in related processes and educational groups in BC for many years at local, regional and provincial levels, and understand the delicacy required to represent the student voice(s) while not alienating administration.

I am very approachable and am known for a seemingly endless amount of free time to just hang around the halls. If you have any questions regarding my candidacy –or even if you're just bored in the atrium –come get to know me. (My written French is non-existent, but I welcome any French conversations you bring my way).

Academics causes you enough stress already –let me take on some of that for you!



### EMILY KAUFER

Scenario: YOU have a concern regarding an academic matter (perhaps programming, grading or the curriculum...) that you believe needs to be addressed within the faculty of law.

Problem: Your schedule, the weather, your lack of public speaking skills or perhaps your apathetic attitude leaves you wishing you can share the concern with a fellow student. Someone determined, confident and willing to fulfill the commitment of representing you as an LSA member.

Solution: YOU elect ME, Emily Kaufer, a first year law student to the position of VP-Academic. Just so were on the same page, I love (in no particular order) juice boxes, Eric Clapton and the smell of victory!!!

Academic changes and improvements may always be welcomed at any faculty. The only caveat is that someone must be dedicated and willing to work hard at initiating a platform for discussion. Elect Emily Kaufer as your VP-Academic for the year 2008-2009 and rest assured that the bigger the issue, the stronger the voice!



## VP INTERNAL



### JUSTIN DOUGLAS

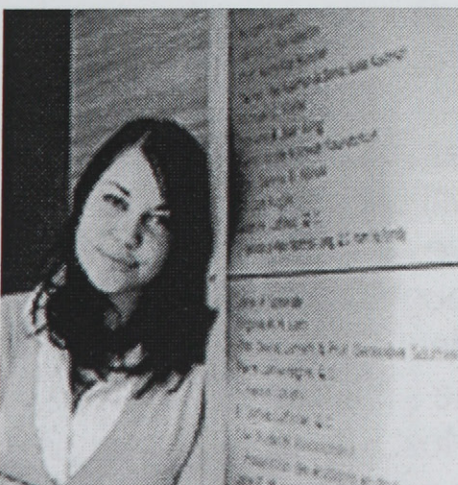
Everyone has different reasons for being at McGill. For some it's simple: to finish as soon as possible and begin a career. For others, it's the love of the subject matter or a process of discovery. For me, it's important to make the most of the time I have here. I want to succeed academically, but I also want a well-rounded experience, including the opportunity to facilitate positive and interesting experiences for others. As First year Class President, I had a chance to learn about the LSA and be involved in a number of initiatives, including the LSA's Sustainable Development Committee. If I do get elected as VP-Internal, I'll do my best to be approachable, responsible, fun, and open to ideas on how to make next year as memorable as possible for everyone. I really enjoy interacting with others; I have great organizational skills and would do my best to effectively represent the student body and communicate our concerns. Thanks for your consideration.



### ALEXANDRE FOREST

Fort de deux années à la Faculté, j'ai pu observer des lacunes dans l'organisation d'événements festifs et, si vous me faites confiance en me nommant comme vice-président interne, je m'efforcerai de corriger ces lacunes. First of all, there's a certain lack of diversity when it's time to organise parties for the whole faculty. As a VP Internal, I would put emphasis on locations adapted for student parties (examples : Café Campus, Gert's, Balroom Bar, Belmont, etc.) and, when a Dj would be needed, I would choose different Djs from our Faculty to make sure that everyone, whatever generation, is having fun! Qui plus est, je compte, en plus du traditionnel bal d'ouverture de l'année, organiser un autre bal qui visera à amasser des fonds pour divers organismes. Finally, as I already did that work last year, I'm perfectly prepared to organize the Orientation Week and to lead bartenders and other helpers for Coffee Houses. Pour couronner le tout, je vise l'organisation d'activités non associées à l'alcool, comme par exemple des sorties pour voir les Canadiens de Montréal et du Théâtre (francophone et anglophone).

## VP PUBLIC RELATIONS



### TÉO LEROUX-BLACKBURN

I am relationship based, and so is my view of PR. My aim is to broaden the reach of the LSA's relationships within the McGill and Montréal communities, and to widen the scope of student groups they benefit. The PR wing of the LSA is an access point, its expertise is yours to leverage in the planning and execution of your initiatives. Heard of a great figure coming to town and need some help with speaker fees and a co-host? My job is to put you in a room with someone that can make it happen. We are in a unique position: teeming with young talent, and coveted by a corporate environment full of resources.

I believe in a policy of strict professionalism governing our interactions with law firms, the CDO, and the Faculty. I am committed to a stringent standard of politeness, availability, performance, and accountability with those bodies. Le professionnalisme passe aussi par la qualité du français écrit. Nos communications d'affaires doivent être parfaitement bilingues. Votre représentante, et son expérience, doivent refléter le cachet unique de notre faculté.





### **NATAI SHELSEN**

As VP-PR, I will be responsible for corporate sponsorship, fundraising and the marketing of LSA products. I have already proven my ability to successfully complete these tasks within a law school setting. As a member of the Law Games Committee, I approached firms and negotiated an exclusive partnership with BLG, which enabled the McGill team to represent our faculty in flashy red tracksuits. I also co-organized the MILS St. Patrick's Day Coffeehouse, which involved marketing and fundraising. Having raised over \$64,000 for various events and causes over the past five years, I am very comfortable with fundraising and corporate sponsorship. Throughout my first year, I have shown my dedication to our faculty through my involvement with Malpractice Cup, Law School of Rock and Skit Night, among other things. I have grown to love this faculty, and am excited about the opportunity to use my skills (yes, getting people to give you money is a skill...) to help others enjoy their time here as much as I have! So... vote for me! I don't do politics – I just get things done

## **Second Year Class Presidents (2 positions)**

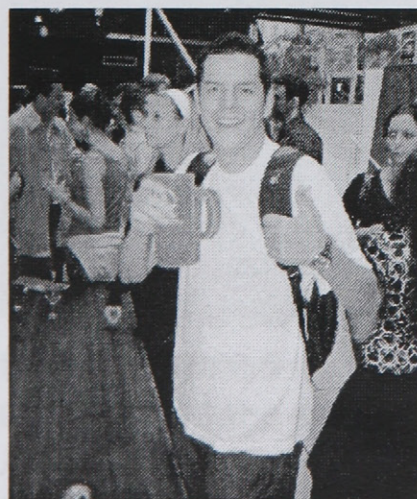


### **ANDREW DEAK**

Mes chers collègues,

Je me présente comme un candidat pour la position de président pour les étudiants qui vont être dans leur deuxième année (2008-09). Je n'ai pas un plan. Je suis juste ici pour vous écouter, et faciliter un sentiment de communauté. The role of class president often viewed as being ceremonial: however, I will engage with the LSA, sit in on other relevant meetings, and do my best to represent my classmates on issues pertinent to them. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me anytime!

Good luck on this last stretch of the term!



### **DANIEL LÉVY**

Class President is a position with many possibilities, and which can be used for many purposes. If elected president, I will use my position as a way of ensuring that the students in our year have an outlet in which they may express any concerns or ideas they want brought forward to the LSA executive. By acting as a liason between the students and the LSA and faculty at large, we can be sure next year, and the social events it brings with it will be well organized, creative, and fun. Most importantly, you as Law 2 students will have someone you can easily approach with any concerns, and I will do my best to help you in all aspects of student life.

Thank you for your vote as Year 2 Class President. - Daniel Brian Levy





### NICK TURP

Hi, my name is Nick Turp and I am running for second-year class president. Why class president? I believe this position is crucial because it enables students to have a direct link to the LSA. A class president gets to voice student concerns to the LSA and hold class meetings. In my six months at McGill Law, I have discussed student life with dozens of my classmates and I possess a good knowledge of the many concerns pertaining to academic and social life in our faculty. I served on the Law Games organizing committee, participated in Law School of Rock and Skit Nite, and attended many LSA meetings and assemblies.

Je crois que le poste de président de classe est plus important que jamais, surtout à la lumière des bouleversements académiques qui ont eu lieu récemment pour les étudiants de deuxième année. Je parle notamment des nombreux changements au corps professoral qui ont eu lieu en plein milieu de la session. L'an prochain, je compte bien défendre les intérêts des étudiants et être à l'écoute de toutes vos préoccupations. Merci!

## The following candidates have been acclaimed:



### LSA PRESIDENT/ PRÉSIDENT DE L'AÉD

#### RACHEL SÉVIGNY

Cher étudiants,

As my VP-Administration term comes to an end, I am excited about the opportunity to run for LSA President. During the past two years, I have been Faculty Councillor and DDF Committee member. In addition, I chaired the Orientation Committee, Awards Committee, and Constitution and By-Laws Committee. My experience makes me an excellent candidate for the LSA Presidency.

I am eager to collaborate with my fellow LSA members to work more efficiently to address your needs and ensure that you have an excellent year. I envision next year's LSA as a cohesive unit that has the goals of transparency and accountability. I will hold a town hall in the fall where the executive will present their plans. Finally, at the Annual General Meeting, you will be able to measure the LSA's progress.

Il me ferait un honneur de jouer un rôle d'impact au sein de la vie étudiante de la faculté et par lequel je m'assurerai que la voix étudiante se fasse bien entendre à tous les paliers de l'administration.



### VP- ADMINISTRATION

#### ALEXANDRA CARBONE

My name is Alexandra Carbone and I hope to be your VP-Administration for the next school year. As the link between the LSA President and the rest of the executive, I want to bring more consistency to the quality of services, events, and representation the LSA provides you with. I will also be the regular communication channel between you and the rest of the faculty clubs, committees, and associations. I promise to keep you up to date on all the exciting events going on in the faculty, without bombarding you with e-mails. I'm always around the faculty, keeping up with law school life, which makes me a great source of information. If voted for VP-

Admin, as a gesture of my commitment to this position, I will officially join Facebook!





## **VP ATHLETICS**

### **TIM BOTTOMER**

I like sports and I like organizing things – hence I’m running for VP Athletics. I don’t really know what qualifies someone for such a position, but I have played on a number of McGill Intramural teams, participated in the Malpractice Cup, and helped organize our Law Games team. I have also previously ordered sweatshirts for large numbers of people, which seems to be pretty important. If elected, I would strive to make sure that information on athletic matters (intramural sports, Malpractice Cup, Law Games, Bay Street Hoops, Queen’s Law Invitational Hockey Tournament, etc.) is readily available and clear and would like to see a few more events

started.

For instance, I would like to inaugurate an annual hockey game against UdeM.



## **VP CLUBS AND SERVICES**

### **NATHALIE NOUVET**

Hi, my name is Nathalie Nouvet. I am in 1st year law and rather enjoy it. Prior to McGill I studied political science and history at Concordia University. While at Concordia I acted as the representative for the Quebec Federation of University Students. I was also involved in a number of clubs and community initiatives, including running as city counselor for my municipality (I lost, so frankly I would prefer not to lose again.) I love to chat, and so, if I am elected as your representative for club and services, I will always be available to listen to your concerns and ideas. The

priorities for my platform include ensuring greater transparency in the allocation of funds and quicker and more efficient access to these funds. Vote for me, I can ride a unicycle!



## **VP EXTERNAL**

### **ALEXANDRE SHEE**

My job is to be your voice outside the law faculty, and I want to hear your ideas and concerns. Firstly, I am passionate about your concerns. I think that as law students we all have something to bring to the table. I strongly believe in debate and discussion. But, I most importantly believe that we can find common ground together. Nous devons représenter la résilience et la richesse de notre faculté au SSMU. I think that VP-external must listen to the concerns of all students and try to find the outside resources to help enrich their McGill experience. Deuxièmement, je suis travaillant. Je pense qu’en organisant des séances d’information qui approfondissent nos connaissances sur les sujets d’importance, nous pouvons véritablement créer un débat potable. I am someone who we’ll be proactive. We must not always wait for problems to arise, but act to solve future dilemmas. Finally, I am open and available. I want to hear from you as well as create a sustained dialogue between the LSA and students. This year, together, we can make things better!





**VP-FINANCE**  
**JEANNINE PLAMONDON**

Jeannine is from Prince Edward Island and is in her first year at McGill law. She is currently serving as the Financial Manager for the McGill International Law Society and has brought such events as the international internships lunch panel and the discussion with the Canadian Ambassador to Israel to the law faculty this year. She has significant experience harassing the current VP Finance for club funding and has learned the ins and outs of the LSA finances as a result! She completed a bachelor's degree in political science and international development at Brigham Young University and managed to run the successful BYU UNICEF club in a hostile anti-UN environment. She was featured in the UK Guardian and al Jazeera for organizing students against Dick Cheney as the BYU commencement speaker in 2007. She is looking forward to participating in the LSA and promises a balanced budget and club funding for all!

## Third-Year Class Presidents (2 positions)

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**MEGAN COWAN**

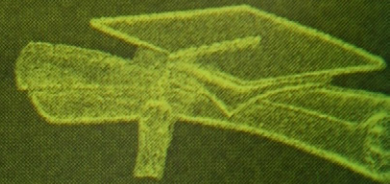
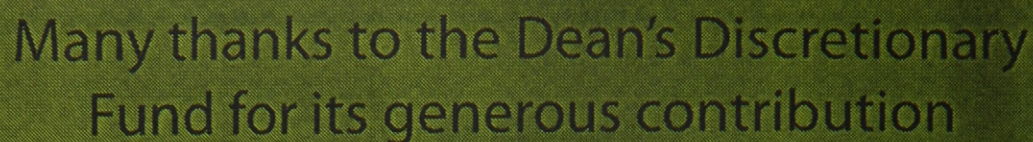
Hi everyone! I am thrilled to be the third-year class president with Lisa Smith. After my work as Vice-President Clubs and Services on the 2007-2008 LSA, I am particularly glad to continue my involvement on LSA council and within the faculty. Lisa and I will be planning many exciting events for the coming year and we hope that it will be a great one for all, especially since this is our last full year together as a class. Good luck to everyone with the rest of the semester, enjoy your summer, and bring on Law III!



**LISA SMITH**

This year, many unexpected changes affected the second year class. I worked my hardest to listen to every class member who had an opinion and ensure that the LSA and Faculty administration heard all of your concerns. It has been an honour (and lots of fun!) to be your class representative. Thank you for your efforts, which made this year collaborative and fantastic! J'espère poursuivre mon travail en tant que présidente pour l'année 2008-2009. Je souhaite organiser plus d'événements sociaux et assurer votre participation au « 3rd year Town Hall » en septembre 2008.





Dress: Semi-Formal